

Application No. 09/762,225

Title: A DEVICE FOR AND A METHOD OF DETECTING A DISEASE OF THE UDDER OF AN ANIMAL

Amendment responsive to Office Action dated: April 14, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A device for detecting a disease of the udder of an animal, comprising:

means for appreciating a parameter related to the quantity of milk extracted from a first teat

and at least a second teat of said animal during at least one milking operation;

means arranged to determine a deviation of said parameter of the first teat from a comparison value and;

means arranged to display said deviation as an indication of an inflammation of the first teat at least in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level,

wherein the determining means is arranged to define said comparison value by including the level of said parameter regarding said second teat during said milking operation.

2. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the first teat and said second teat form one of a rearward pair of teats of the udder and a forward pair of teats of the udder.

3. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said comparison value includes the level of said parameter of at least one preceding milking operation of said animal.

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4. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 3, wherein the determining means is arranged to consider the time interval between the milking operation and the immediately preceding milking operation of said animal for determining said deviation.

5. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said parameter includes the quantity of milk produced during said milking operation and that the appreciating means includes a milk measuring device.

6. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 5, wherein the milk measuring device includes a flow meter.

7. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said parameter includes the time duration of said milking operation and that the appreciating means includes a time measuring device.

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8. (Previously presented) A method of detecting a disease of the udder of an animal, comprising the steps of:

appreciating a parameter related to the quantity of milk extracted from a first teat and at least

a second teat of said animal during at least one milking operation;

defining a comparison value by the level of said parameter regarding said second teat during

said milking operation;

determining a deviation of said parameter of the first teat from said comparison value; and

indicating an inflammation of the first test at least in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 8, comprising the further step of displaying said deviation as an indication of an inflammation of the first teat in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the first said teat and said second teat form one of a rearward pair of teats of the udder and a forward pair of teats of the udder.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein said comparison value includes the level of said parameter of at least one preceding milking operation of said animal.

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12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising the further step of considering the time interval between said milking operation and the nearest preceding milking operation of said animal when determining said deviation.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein said appreciating step includes measuring the quantity of milk extracted from the actual teat during said milking operation.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein said appreciating step includes measuring the time duration of one milking operation of the actual teat.

15. (Currently amended) A device according to claim [1] 2, wherein said comparison ~~value~~ value includes the level of said parameter of at least one preceding milking operation of said animal.

16. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 15, wherein said parameter includes the quantity of milk produced during said milking operation and that the appreciating means includes a milk measuring device.

17. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 16, wherein said parameter includes the time duration of said milking operation and that the appreciating means includes a time measuring device.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein said first teat and said second teat form one of a rearward pair of teats of the udder and a forward pair of teats of the udder.

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19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein said comparison valve includes the level of said parameter of at least one preceding milking operation of said animal.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said appreciating step includes measuring the time duration of one milking operation of the actual teat.